

REMARKS

The present Amendment is in response to the Office Action dated April 27, 2005 in reference to the above-identified application. The Examiner has set a shortened statutory period for response to this action to expire three (3) months from the mailing date of the communication. Filed concurrently herewith is a one (1) month extension of time thereby making this response due August 27, 2005 (a Saturday) such that the response is now due August 29, 2005.

In that office action the Examiner objected to informalities in the abstract and in previously withdrawn claim 5. Specifically, there is a period missing from the last line of the abstract and in claim 5, "stop portion" should read "stop member."

More substantively, claim 1 is rejected as being anticipated under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over United States Patent No. 5,343,720 to Slater. Applicant notes with appreciation the Examiner's indication that claims 2-5 contain allowable subject matter and that claims 6 and 7 are allowed.

In response to the office action Applicant has amended the abstract as required. Dependent claims 2-5 have been rewritten in independent form, including all of the limitations of base claim 1, as newly presented claims 19-22 respectively. Accordingly, claims 1-5 have been canceled. Newly presented claim 22 also incorporates corrections that were required in previously withdrawn claim 5.

In reference to the Transmittal of Second Supplemental Information Disclosure, submitted by the Applicant on May 23, 2005 and received by the Office May 26, 2005, Applicant again does not know and does not admit that the same is prior art. Assuming arguendo that is pertinent, Applicant nonetheless believes that it does not embody the limitations as recited in the claims of the present invention, including claim 6.

In particular, the sleeve, as labeled by Master Lock, is intended to prevent cutting or sawing (See Master Lock packaging Suggested Uses #2) of the so called shank. The sleeve is removable where the application does not require the extra protection. For example, in the trailer hitch application as shown on the packing, the trailer hitch inherently prevents access to the shank with a saw or cutters thereby rendering the "Revolving Case-Hardened Steel Shackle Sleeve" unnecessary. The Master Lock sleeve is intended to be used for added security and not for adaptability as is recited in the present invention.

In addition, the alleged Master Lock reference is a padlock where the lock head and shackle member are inseparable as is typical of padlocks. Newly presented claim 23 includes the limitations of claim 6 and further recites a locking device where the "locking head and said shackle member may be completely disconnected from one another as two independent pieces." This is not shown in the alleged Master Lock reference.

Due to this Amendment, a new filing fee calculation is provided, as follows:

Maximum Total Claims This Amendment	Total Claims Previously Paid For	
7	-	18 = 0 x \$ 25.00 = \$0.00
Total Independent Claims Per This Amendment	Maximum Independent Claims Previously Paid For	
6	-	5 = 1 x \$100.00 = \$100.00 Additional Filing Fee Due \$100.00

Accordingly, our check no. 5208 in the amount of \$100.00 is enclosed. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any deficiency in the payment of the required fee(s) or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 13-1940.

Based on the foregoing, Applicant submits that the present application is in complete condition for allowance, and action to that end is courteously solicited. If any issues remain to be resolved prior to the granting of this application, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned attorney for the Applicant at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING UNDER 37 C.F.R. 1.8

I hereby certify that the attached **AMENDMENT (11 pages), AND CHECK NO. 5208 IN THE AMOUNT OF \$100.00** is being deposited with the United States Postal service for delivery in an envelope addressed to Commissioner for Patents Mail Stop Fee Amendment, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on this 29th day of August, 2005.

Marcie F. King
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